

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The drawings stand objected to because of various informalities. FIGS. 1 and 1A have been corrected as indicated in the attached replacement drawing sheets and the specification has been revised so as to be consistent with the changes in the drawings. More specifically, reference to a conventional printing circuit board as element "87" has been deleted from the specification on page 11, line 14. Cancellation of the reference character "87" for use with a conventional printed circuit board as described on page 11, line 14, also eliminates the conflict with the discussion on page 11, lines 17-19 of a "peripheral gasket 87". Reference number "10" pointing to the contact holder 18 has been deleted from FIG. 1A. Reference to a slot "74" on page 10, line 6, in the specification has been deleted. Finally, FIG. 1A has also been revised by changing the reference number for designating a wall of contact band 27 as element number "21" rather than element number "25", which is used to designate the screw stop in contact holder 18. The specification on page 7, line 10, has also been revised to reflect this change. Replacement drawing sheets incorporating these various changes are attached hereto for review and approval by the Examiner.

Those portions of the specification objected to in the Office Action have been revised to eliminate inconsistencies in terminology and to clarify the description of the invention. Informalities in the specification not pointed out in the Office Action have also been corrected in the revisions to the specification set forth herein. In addition, the objections to various informalities in the claims have also been addressed and corrected in the attached set of amended claims. The various changes to the specification and claims suggested by the Examiner have also

been adopted in the various amendments to the specification and claims. The only objection to the claims which did not give rise to an amendment of the claims relates to claim 4, line 2. This claim is directed to the description of a single contact element which engages a single receptacle. Therefore, this claim was not amended to recite “receptacles” as suggested by the Examiner. If the understanding of the recitation of claim 4 on the part of applicant’s representative is not correct, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss and resolve this matter.

Claims 8, 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirements. More specifically, the Examiner states that it is not clear in claims 8 and 13 what the recited “body” is since the specification allegedly does not clearly describe the body supporting the mating connector. Claim 9 stands rejected on the basis of the specification’s alleged failure to describe “a base” of the recited pedestal.

The electrical connector of the present invention is adapted to be connected at one end to a cable 10 having plural wires 11, 12 and 13 as shown in FIG. 1A. The inventive electrical connector is also adapted for connection on a second, opposed end to an electrical component such as a solenoid as described throughout the specification. For example, page 5 of the specification describes the connection of the electrical connector to a solenoid housing by means of a retainer screw 46 shown in FIG. 1. On page 8 of the specification, the connection between the inventive electrical connector and a conventional solenoid is further described as including contact assemblies 32 - 35 shown in FIG. 2 typically employed on a solenoid which are each adapted for insertion in a respective slot 38 - 40 disposed in the bottom of the electrical connector as shown in FIG. 4. Of the three slots 38 - 40, two slots are used for data leads and the third is a power lead. A

fourth slot 41 in the bottom of the electrical connector is adapted to receive a straight blade ground connector, "as is known in the art". Thus, the solenoid to which the electrical connector of the present invention is adapted for connection is of convention design and configuration and is well known to those skilled in the relevant art. On pages 11 and 12 of the specification, there is described the connection by means of screw 46 inserted through the electrical connector's pedestal 55 shown in FIG. 6 and into a corresponding internally threaded opening in the housing of the solenoid "as is known in the art" in forming the connection between the electrical connector and the solenoid. This connection includes gasket 87 as well as gasket retainer 92 which is adapted to be received in a tight fitting manner within the electrical connector's cavity 44 "as is known in the art" and as shown in FIG. 6 and described on page 12. Because the "body" to which the claimed electrical connector is adapted for connection is conventional in design and configuration and is well known to those skilled in the relevant arts, and because this "body" does not form a part of the present invention, it is not necessary that the details of this "body" be described in the subject application as part of the description of the claimed invention. Those skilled in the relevant arts can easily ascertain from the description of applicant's invention the design and configuration of a "body" to be electrically coupled to the electrical connector of the present invention.

The structure recited in claim 9 is shown in FIG. 6 and described on page 9, lines 3-16. Therein, it is stated that the contact holder 43 includes a center pedestal 55 and the connector includes a contact retainer 52 positioned on the top of the contact holder. The contact retainer 52 includes four depending latches 53 which extend downwardly from each side section of the contact retainer. Each depending latch 53 extends into the cavity 44 of the contact holder 43 and

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includes a respective barbed portion 54 to catch beneath the center pedestal 55 for securing, or attaching, to the base, or lower portion, of the pedestal. It is in this manner that contact retainer 52 is securely connected to the contact holder 43 and the conductive bands are secured in the contact holder.

Claims 7, 9, 11 and 13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended so as to include the recitations of cancelled claims 6 and 7. Claim 9 has been written in independent form so as to include the recitations of claims 1 and 8 from which it originally depended. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form so as to include the recitations of claims 1 and 10 from which it originally depended. Thus, all of the pending independent claims recite patentable subject matter.

With this amendment, all of the pending claims are believed to define patentable subject matter. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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